Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine Weekly Notice, July 15, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/

PDMP Weekly Activity Report:

Giant Hogweed was detected in Kosciusko County, Indiana on 6/10/04 and reported into NAPIS. Two detections of GHW first observed in Marion and Lane Counties in Oregon were reported into NAPIS as well. Additional surveys are being conducted in N.Y. State, with a suspect location being checked in Boston, N.Y. Confirmation is pending on this site.

All known GHW sites in PA have been treated with follow-up visits being conducted for seedling emergence and re-treatments as necessary.
Source: Alan V. Tasker

Emerald Ash Borer Report:

Maryland:
The Maryland Department of Agriculture continues to report negative results from their 100+ ash sentinel trees.

Canada:
Canadian Food Inspection Agency crews have found signs of the EAB beetle east of the ash-free zone. Four sites are infested with the ash-tree-killing beetle along Highway 401 in West Kent.

This spring, about 85,000 ash trees were removed in a 10-kilometre-wide swath between Tilbury and Merlin from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie in a bid to contain the insect.

Three sites north of the 401 are believed to be in the first year of infestation, while one area south of the highway has been there for more than a year, according to CFIA's Ches Caister.

Ohio:
Delimitation is now occurring in the Swanton/Oak Opening Park area (Lucas/Fulton Counties), which is in excess of 25 square miles, and also in a 5 acre property near North Baltimore (Wood County).
Visual survey has been accomplished in twenty northwest Ohio counties with the inspection of approximately 50,000 ash trees thus far in a 4,800 square mile area.
Trap trees have been established around all eradication sites, and more are in progress in North Baltimore and Swanton.
Tree removals in 2003 were approximately 5,000 and 30,000 were removed in 2004.

Michigan:
On July 8, 2004, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and members of the state's Emerald Ash Borer Task Force announced 47 communities in Southeast Michigan will share a one-time federal grants totaling $1.2 million to help them offset ash tree removal costs in 2004 due to the destructive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). These dollars will be used for tree removal in the most heavily impacted communities, and included all communities located in the six-county core EAB infested area - - Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne.
The grants, made available by a one-time federal appropriation, will be distributed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture to local units of government based on the number of landscape ash trees 4 inches or larger that have been or will be removed from their individual municipal properties between March 1 and Nov. 30, 2004.
Source: Deborah L. McPartlan

Cactus Moth, *Cactoblastis cactorum*, Detection Meeting Report:

In the last week of June, PPQ sponsored a meeting held in Pensacola, Florida that brought together PPQ Pest Survey Specialists of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona to meet

with ARS and CPHST scientists working on cactus moth detection and control technologies. The goal of the meeting was to bring together the appropriate entities that can help with tracking the leading edge of the western spread that is now in the panhandle of Florida and moving toward Mobile Bay, Alabama. Also present at the meeting was the Mississippi Dept. of Agriculture and representatives from the Mississippi State University Georesources Institute who have funding from US Geological Survey to assist in cactus moth surveys on public lands and help map the location of Opuntia pricky pear cactus populations, the host of cactus moths. Several biologists attended who are employed at federal land management agencies (US Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Air force) and the Nature Conservancy from local refuges, preserves, and national seashores in the area. While visual survey for larval damage is feasible, trapping technology sterile virgin female moths is what is currently available for adults. The pheromone may be available by the Fall, but testing and synthesis by ARS is still not complete. The meeting also helped us better define the data collection, specimen identification materials, and data reporting needs that will be tackled by a working group involving MSU, CPHST, and the Eastern Regional Office. We also anticipate a detection program expanded to other States once techniques are available and involving volunteers in the future. There is no effective control strategy now for cactus moth, but a sterile insect technique validation study undertaken by ARS and CPHST is to take place on Santa Rosa Island, Florida partially this season and fully next season if additional funding becomes available. The potential for artificial spread in the nursery trade from infested areas is still an open question needs more data to be fully addressed in the near future.
Source: Joel P. Floyd

Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket Report:

Mormon cricket outbreaks have mostly subsided for 2004 as most crickets have reached adulthood, have laid eggs, and will begin to die naturally in the next couple of weeks. Most all treatments have therefore been completed, but a few bait programs will continue into August. In general, Mormon cricket populations were at higher levels this year than last year with except in those limited areas where treatments were done in 2003.

Grasshopper populations in 2004 have not developed into widespread problems on western rangelands although outbreaks of clearwinged grasshoppers have caused economic damage especially in Oregon and Montana.
Source: Charles L. Brown